



**KING COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH BOARD
KING COUNTY ALCOHOLISM AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE BOARD**

Legislative Advocacy and Public Affairs Committee

Wednesday, May 22, 2002

4:00-5:30 p.m.

Conference Room 6A, Exchange Building
821 Second Avenue, Seattle WA 98104

Members Attending:

Eleanor Owen, Co-Chair, Legislative Advocacy and Public Affairs Committee
Jim Harbaugh, Chair, King County Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Administrative Board
Howard Miller, Chair, King County Mental Health Advisory Board
Linda Brown, Chair-Elect KCASAAB
Pam Detrick, KCASAAB
Roger Goodman, KCASAAB
Alice Howell, KCMHAB
Ron Sterling, KCMHAB

Staff Present:

Sherry Hamilton

Co-Chair Eleanor Owen called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. As part of the introductions, it was announced that Roger Goodman has been appointed as the new Committee Co-Chair, subject to the approval of the KCASAAB at their June 11, 2002 meeting. Pam Detrick will continue as a member of the committee. Following introductions, Eleanor proceeded with the agenda.

As several of the members of this committee were either new or had to miss the March meeting (due to the fact that the meeting was moved from its regularly scheduled day and time) some portion of the meeting was used to bring all members "up to date" on earlier discussions and decisions relative to the Committee's role and the proposed outreach plan.

2002 LEGISLATIVE ACTION PLAN

The draft 2002 Legislative Action Plan was presented to the members of both Boards at the Joint Meeting on May 14, 2002. There were no objections or revisions to the plan suggested at that time. Therefore, the Committee will proceed with preparations to implement the plan.

Available in alternate formats upon request.

(206) 205-1324 or (206) 205-1136

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Issue: Both Boards need to improve their geographic representation. Membership is currently most concentrated within the City of Seattle boundaries (including north Seattle and West Seattle), with membership particularly light in East and South King County. This is a deterrent to our legislative outreach.

Action: 1) Board members will attempt to strengthen connections with service providers and advocacy groups to try to recruit interested persons from those areas to serve on the Boards. This will be an ongoing effort. 2) Staff was asked to compile an updated list of mental health and substance abuse agencies that have administrative boards to include current contact names (Board Chairs/Presidents) and phone numbers. 3) The charter for this committee calls for six voting members from each Board who may be either Board members or interested community representatives; Boards may consider appointing individuals from the community to serve on this committee who reside in those unrepresented areas to assist with the geographic distribution. 4) Board members may also “partner” with a local provider and/or advocate group to do outreach to that area of the county.

Implementation of the Plan

Information Sheets: Many Board members have expressed some reservation about making “cold calls” on their legislators and have asked for some talking points or basic information about the King County mental health and substance abuse treatment systems. Mental Health, Chemical Abuse and Dependency Services Division Manager Jackie MacLean responded that she would put together a few short, easy to understand information sheets about our treatment systems, services provided in King County, numbers served, and budget information to assist Board members in making these initial contacts. These information sheets are not to be confused with the issue papers that will be developed to support the legislative priorities that will be selected by the two Boards as the *2003 Legislative Agenda*. Those issue papers will be drafted and edited by the Committee prior to the Community Legislative Forum.

Meetings with Legislators: Board members are encouraged to share their own stories – this is what my family/agency/school is dealing with. Ask the legislator what their thoughts are on mental health/substance abuse. Ask them what they are willing to do to help. Ask what information you can provide as a follow up. Offer yourself as a resource for the future. See also the “Grassroots Lobbying” tip sheet from the Rep. Laura Ruderman presentation to NAMI-Eastside.

Report back: At each Board meeting, as a regular agenda item, the Board Chair will call for reports from Board members on their legislative contacts. In this way, we will keep in touch with the issues, news, priorities, etc. for the King County legislative delegation and also gather ways to improve our outreach and education strategies.

COMMUNITY LEGISLATIVE FORUM

Dates: Election Day is Tuesday, November 5. The forum will take place post-election. Invitees will be the new and returning State Senators and Representatives, as well as the mental health

and substance abuse communities. First preferences for dates were Thursday, November 21 or Tuesday, November 19; second choice was a Tuesday/Thursday the week of December 2. Staff will attempt to find out if there are any conflicting legislative meetings, trainings, or the like scheduled on any of the target dates.

Location: Committee members voiced a preference for moving the forum out of the greater Seattle area, possibly to Tukwila or Southcenter. Staff will explore possible sites in that area and report back at the June committee meeting.

Legislative Agenda: The committee had a beginning discussion about how they would go about developing the Joint Mental Health/Substance Abuse Legislative Priorities for 2003. The two Boards usually select a few (no more than four) areas of focus for each legislative session. These issues also form the nucleus of the program for the Community Legislative Forum. **Next Steps:** 1) Board members will be gathering information on legislative interests and priorities from their personal contacts with legislators (as noted above) over the next few months. 2) Campaign newsletters, articles, and Web sites will have information on community meetings, focus groups, areas of interest, new initiatives, legislative priorities, etc. Board members will make an effort to gather this information. 3) Our partners in human services/mental health and substance abuse will also be developing their 2003 Legislative Agendas (King County Executive, Washington Association of Counties, Children's Alliance, NAMI Washington, Washington State Association of Alcohol and Addiction Programs, etc.). Staff and Committee members will try to make connections with these groups to find out their issues and initiatives for 2003.

Development of the legislative priorities typically takes place over the summer months with a draft agenda to be proposed to the Joint Mental Health and Substance Abuse Board Meeting in September.

OTHER AGENDA ITEMS

Public Affairs Role: Ron Sterling broached the need for the Committee to develop the "Public Affairs" half of the committee's charter, noting the national observances of Mental Health Month, Suicide Prevention Week, Alcohol and Drug Awareness Month, Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery Month, Mental Illness Awareness Week, Depression and Anxiety Awareness and Screening Days, and others. As it was the end of the meeting, this issue was tabled for a future meeting of the committee.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Legislative Advocacy and Public Affairs Committee is June 26, 2002 4:00-5:30 p.m. An agenda will be sent out in June.